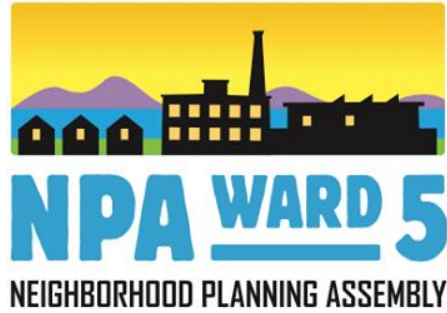




Thursday, 1/20/2022
7:00 – 8:30 PM

In person @ DPW, 645 Pine Street & via Zoom

Zoom URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574495720>

By phone at: +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 895 7449 5720

AGENDA

- a. 6:55 PM – Musical Opener
- b. 7:00 PM – Public Forum: announcements, questions, brilliant ideas
- c. 7:20 PM – Election of Ward 5 representative to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Board
- d. 7:30 PM – Candidate Forum – Ward 5 School Board
- e. 7:50 PM – Candidate Forum – Ward 5 City Council
- f. 8:10 PM – Ballot Question Item – CEDO presentation on Downtown TIF District

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Meeting Agenda
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**In-person option @ DPW, 645 Pine Street; virtual attendance encouraged due to heightened COVID risk.*

I. Participation:

- a. Steering Committee Attendance & [Contact Information](#): Andy Simon, Nate Lantieri, Billy Clark, Joe Dery, Ben Traverse, Lucia Campriello, Nancy Stetson
- b. Total Attendees: 45, including SC.

II. Minutes

a. 7:00 PM – Public Forum: announcements, questions, brilliant ideas

Andy Simon opens meeting with review of NPA Ward 5 Guiding Principles; Andy will moderate the meeting up until the candidate forums begin. We have quite a few anticipated openings on the Ward 5 Steering Committee! Formal, regular elections typically held in April.

Thank you to Sam Heinrichs, CEDO NPA Liaison, for staffing the physical space for this meeting.

Public forum kicks off at 7:08pm.

Bill Morris is running for Ward 5 Inspector of Elections; can be reached at bill@billmorris.io with questions.

Billy Clark expresses gratitude for neighborhood/community in light of personal COVID quarantine experience.

Carolyn Bates asks for clarification on Inspector of Elections opening; Bill Morris confirms our Ward has three, elected on a rotating basis.

Joe Dery notes emails received by steering committee regarding new lighting project; [Burlington Electric Commission discussed this issue recently](#) (44:15 marks start of discussion; 56:00 marks start of Q&A). Andy Simon asks for BED's rationale behind lighting level changes; Joe relays BED enforces lighting standards by road type.

Nate Lantieri, on behalf of CVOEO's Housing Advocacy Team, mentions Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program through Vermont State Housing Authority; renters can receive assistance with application through CVOEO. For homeowners, Homeowners Assistance Program run through Vermont Housing Finance Authority may provide assistance with housing costs. Both housing stabilization funds are time-limited, so consider applying soon!

b. 7:20 PM – Election of Ward 5 representative to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Board ([Election Google Form linked here](#))

Nancy Stetson, current CDBG representative and Ward 5 Steering Committee member, is term-limited.

Ilona Blanchard and Nate Lantieri are candidates for the two year term. Ilona introduces herself to attendees; Ilona is a current community development professional with the City of South Burlington. Cites her experience spending CDBG funds in other professional roles. Nate re-introduces himself to attendees and explains his interest in community development, rooted in experiences had as a student at UVM. Both candidates hope CDBG service would deepen their connection with the community.

Joe Dery explains voting process; Google Form with CDBG ballot is now live on NPA website. Voting link will remain active throughout meeting, per Andy Simon.

Note: After the meeting, votes were tallied and Ilona Blanchard was selected to be the new Ward 5 CDBG representative.

c. 7:30 PM – Candidate Forum – Ward 5 School Board (candidate [Lucia Campriello](#))

Nate Lantieri takes over moderation duties. Don't forget that Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, 3/1! Ballots will be mailed in the coming weeks.

Lucia Campriello is the only School Board candidate. There will be another candidate forum hosted by CCTV/Town Meeting Television.

Lucia begins with an opening statement; she is a parent to two children in local schools, both will be in district schools soon. Current Board member at Generator, Vermont Association for Education of Young Children; is Chief Organizing Officer at Let's Grow Kids! Decision to run was guided by conversations with current and former School Board members, past professional commitments, concern for equity in schools and public school investment across the state. Lucia thanks Mike Fisher, outgoing School Board rep, for his service and support of her candidacy.

Nate introduces questions from community members.

1. What are three biggest challenges for Burlington schools?

Lucia: High school and pandemic are two immediate challenges. Raising revenue for new high school is real challenge. Board ought to put forth palatable funding plan. Reflecting on upcoming two year anniversary of COVID pandemic, Lucia can't help but think of new pressures on school administrators, teachers and students. General COVID recovery remains an ongoing challenge.

2. How do you plan to engage Ward 5 families, children and parents, in School Board decision making?

Lucia: I think of SB as doing two things - governance and community engagement. Good policy requires stakeholder participation. Encourages public to take advantage of board/community meetings which offer opportunities to voice concerns/weigh in on district-wide conversations. Formal nature of forums can sometimes create barriers to participation in public processes, but community partners working with children and families can also collect public input.

3. How will new Vermont pupil weighting formulas impact Burlington? What needs to be done at state level to equitably fund schools?

Lucia: Notes more is to be learned in this area, but understanding is guided by 2019 report to legislature on current pupil weighting formulas which cited inequities across and within Vermont school districts. A 2020 report offered suggestions for formula changes; House and Senate committees are reviewing multiple funding reform alternatives. Lucia encourages community members to contact their state representatives.

Lucia's closing: Check out her [website](http://luciaforbsd.squarespace.com) (luciaforbsd.squarespace.com)! Thanks attendees for opportunity to introduce herself and share values, invites community to support her campaign. Lucia can also be reached at 802-391-0079 or LuciaForBSD@gmail.com.

- d. 7:50 PM – Candidate Forum – Ward 5 City Council (candidates FaRied Munarsyah & [Ben Traverse](#))

Nate introduces FaRied and Ben, candidates for City Council. Each receives four minutes for opening statement.

Ben Traverse: Thanks community members for attending, Ward 5/CEDO/Town Meeting TV for hosting forum. Lives with partner and three children on Southcrest Drive. Running because of enormous impact local governance has on individual daily lives. Explains commitment to view policy through lens of impact upon neighbors. Cites ongoing participation on municipal and community boards, such as past participation on City's Housing Board. Eager to discuss housing, child care, public safety, community-driven parks projects. Congratulates FaRied on Progressive Party nomination.

FaRied Munarsyah: Has lived most of life in Five Sisters neighborhood, joining race to bring more direct democracy to Burlington. Is running in part as representative of charter change measures on upcoming ballot. Feels Burlington is unique community, experiencing incredible developments and challenges. Believes community has resources to survive and thrive throughout challenges. Interested in questions of equitable representation within public processes and among elected officials. Asks community members to check out websites in support of charter changes - propositionzero.org and peopleforpoliceaccountability.com. Thanks Ben for welcoming him to race.

Community questions:

1. What is future of public safety in Burlington? Do you support CNA report? Support independent police review board?

FaRied: Has heard Mayor cite his desire to live in a community which does not require law enforcement; community has lost trust in law enforcement. New accountability mechanisms must be implemented. Any government agency empowered to save/take lives should be scrutinized. Troubled by actions taken by law enforcement, citing civilian deaths during police interactions, under current Mayoral administration.

Ben: Cites importance of lived experience in understanding policy questions. Believes public safety requires comprehensive approach which does not rely completely on law enforcement. Law enforcement have been put into position to provide non-enforcement services. Supports new investments in education-driven positions across City departments to serve as alternatives to policing. Says we should restart effort to recruit new, highly-qualified police chief. Would like to explore best way to establish fully independent review board. Notes we should dedicate more resources to address opioid overdose.

2. What can City government do to support houseless residents?

Ben: For houseless neighbors, such as those of Sears Lane, we need more open, empathy-driven practices. Diverse supports for differing needs; comprehensive approach is needed to realize “housing first” models, going beyond emergency housing. More low/no-barrier housing is needed. Existing shelters need more resources; supports creation of City Housing Advocate.

FaRied: Questions of public safety and housing are very interrelated. First learned of Sears Lane encampment approximately a year ago, recalls initial community conversations about Lane residents. Cites promises offered by City to Sears Lane residents which went unrealized; cites City efforts to close other encampments as cause of Sears Lane growth. Difficult for him to accept that the City views housing as a human right in light of houselessness. Believes funding for micro-housing is needed.

3. Where do you stand on conservation of Barge Canal Superfund Site?

FaRied: I am not as familiar with this issue, still learning. Knows concerns exist regarding current site and limitations placed on housing development. Knows proposal is being drafted by grassroots community orgs for next action steps.

Ben: Become familiar with this issue through Parks Commission service. Says he needs to learn more about issue, clean-up options given current state of site. Believes Ward 5 and target zoning amendments could serve to address City’s housing deficit, but doesn’t believe this is a blanket approach for the Ward.

4. How will you navigate conflict between your views, constituent views, other councilors’ views?

Ben: Burlington is a unique city; we need to ensure neighbors have avenues available to contribute to public processes. More robust community engagement is needed not just in issues of housing, but across City government. Cites changes to personal views regarding park projects following input from community members. City must make more concerted effort to seek out public feedback. City’s Trusted Community Voices Program mentioned; would like to work with People’s Kitchen and FaRied, if elected. Representatives must amplify community viewpoints.

FaRied: I am unsure about this; I share some frustrations with other Burlingtonians regarding City Council operations and decisions. Says City Council cannot be truly representative if community members cannot afford to run for office, NPA cannot be truly representative if segments of community cannot attend. Burlington needs to catch up to rest of Vermont, give voters more power through City charter updates.

Closing statements...

FaRied: Hope community will consider charter change proposals, sign petitions to ensure questions appear on November ballots. FaRied can be reached at 802-272-8339.

Ben: Thanks FaRied and all attendees. Thanks Chip for his service. Cites support of Representative Stebbins, Representative Bluemle, Mary Sullivan. Can be reached at bentraverse@gmail.com, 802-357-2055, bentraverse.com.

e. 8:10 PM – Ballot Question Item – CEDO presentation on Downtown TIF District
Brian Pine, CEDO Director, joins to present on TIF question. Joined by Laura Wheelock, DPW Engineer. Introduces the Great Streets Project for Main Street.

Presents overview of tax increment financing districts in Burlington (two) - waterfront and downtown. District was created by Burlington voters in 2012. Fund increments returned in 2036 at state and city levels. Most increments are currently pulled from private sector development in the district, private property values. 170 million to 285 million = change in values in TIF district since 2011. New value, 75%, goes to cover repayment of the bond; 25% sent to Montpelier for the Education Fund.

Brian reviews Saint Paul Great Streets project as an example of other TIF project. Notes voters have already approved blocks from Church to Pine, still need approval for other developments to finish the project. For specific questions about this project, contact [Laura Wheelock](#).

III. Next Meeting: February 17th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

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